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Every day the men and women of the United States Coast Guard show us what the word commitment means, and their commitment is more evident today than ever before. As the guardians of safety, law and security in our ports and along our coasts, the Coast Guard is an inspiration to all Americans.

Just as the Coast Guard is committed to its missions, Integrated Coast Guard Systems, a partnership of Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin, is committed to delivering new and improved capabilities through the Integrated Deepwater System (IDS). The Deepwater program will recapitalize the Coast Guard and set a new standard for mission effectiveness. Deepwater is already setting a new standard by addressing overall capabilities as an integrated system of systems — a dramatic shift from the past practice of replacing ships and aircraft individually.

One year ago, the Coast Guard selected Integrated Coast Guard Systems as its industry partner for the Deepwater program. During the past year, over 28 major program milestones have been achieved. The close relationship with the Coast Guard and our mutual commitment are delivering results. The design for the new

National Security Cutter is nearly complete and construction on the first ship of the class is due to begin next year. A new maritime patrol aircraft, the CASA 235-300M, will come into service in just three years, and development of the Eagle Eye Vertical UAV has started. Logistics improvements are underway, and command and control enhancements are already coming to life as part of the 110-foot Island Class upgrades.

For the past 213 years, the nation has counted on the Coast Guard to protect our coastline. Now, the Coast Guard is counting on the Integrated Deepwater System program to deliver much-needed capability for its full range of missions.

We are proud to be a part of the Integrated Deepwater System partnership and we thank the Coast Guard men and women for the inspired work they do on behalf of all our citizens and our homeland every day.

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